

The Three Fundamental Principles



- The Obligation upon Every Muslim, Male and Female -



Shaykhul-Islaam Muhammad Ibn 'Abdul-Wahhaab (d.1206H)

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INTRODUCTION:

The following is a presentation of the treatise entitled, '*Usooluth-Thalaathah*' by Shaykhul-Islaam Muhammad Ibn 'Abdul-Wahhaab (d.1206H). This is a summarized version of the more common treatise known as '*Thalaathatul-Usool*' which has been explained by many modern-day Scholars, such as al-'Allaamah Muhammad Ibn Saalih al-'Uthaymeen (d.1421H), Shaykhul-Islaam 'Abdul-'Azeez Ibn Baaz (d.1420H), al-'Allaamah Muhammad Amaan al-Jaamee and others.

The names, *Usooluth-Thalaathah* and *Thalaathatul-Usool* mean the same thing, but refer to two separate treatises and the names are widely mixed up. The treatise in front of you now, *Usooluth-Thalaathah*, is basically a summary of the information presented in *Thalaathatul-Usool* and serves as a good preparatory tool when beginning a study of this work.¹

¹ Refer to *Mashaaheer 'Ulamaa' Najd* (p. 20), *'Ulamaa' Najd Khilaal Sittah Quroon* (1/25) and *Rawdatun-Naadhireen* (2/166) for more information.

THE TEXT OF USOOLUTH-THALAATHAH:



The obligation upon every Muslim, male and female, is to know three fundamental principles. And they are: [i]: knowledge of his Lord; [ii]: knowledge of his Religion; [iii]: and knowledge of his Prophet (*sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam*).

THE FIRST FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE:

So when it is said to you: Who is your Lord? Then say: My Lord is Allaah who nurtured me with His blessing and created me by bringing me from nothing into existence. And the proof is the statement of Allaah the Exalted,

“Indeed, Allaah is my Lord and your Lord, so worship Him. This is the Straight Path.” [Soorah Aali-'Imraan 3:51]

And when it is said to you: By which thing do you know your Lord? Then say: I know of Him through His signs and His creations. So as for the proof for His signs, then it is the statement of Allaah the Exalted,

“And from His signs are the night and the day and the sun and the moon. Do not prostrate to the sun or to the moon, but prostrate to Allaah, who created them, if it is truly Him that you worship.” [Soorah Fussilat 41:37]

And the proof for His creations is the statement of Allaah the Exalted,

“Indeed, your Lord is Allaah, who created the heavens and earth in six days and then ascended above the Throne. He covers the night with the day, chasing it rapidly. And He created the sun, the moon and the stars, subjected by His command. Unquestionably, His is the creation and the command; blessed is Allaah, Lord of the worlds.” [Sooratul-A'raaf 7:54]

And when it is said to you: For what purpose did Allaah create you? Then say: For His worship, His obedience and obedience to His commands and avoidance of His prohibitions. And the proof for worship is the statement of Allaah the Exalted,

“And I did not create the Jinn and the mankind, except to worship Me. I do not want from them any provision, nor do I want them to feed Me. Indeed, Allaah is the Provider, the possessor of firm strength.” [Sooratudh-Dhaariyaat 51:56-58]

And the proof for obedience is the statement of Allaah the Exalted,

“O you who believe! Obey Allaah and obey the Messenger and those in authority amongst you. And if you disagree over anything, then refer it back to Allaah and His Messenger.” [Sooratun-Nisaa‘ 4:59]

Meaning, refer back to the Book of Allaah and the *Sunnah* of His Prophet (*sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam*).

And when it is said to you: What has Allaah commanded you with and what has He prohibited you from? Then say: He has commanded me with *Tawheed* and He has prohibited me from *Shirk*. And the proof for the command is the statement of Allaah the Exalted,

“Indeed, Allaah commands justice and good conduct and giving to relatives and forbids immorality and evil conduct and oppression. He admonishes you that perhaps you may be reminded.” [Sooratun-Nahl 16:90]

And the proof for the prohibition of *Shirk* is the statement of Allaah the Exalted,

“Indeed, Allaah does not forgive that Shirk be committed with Him, but He forgives whatever is less than that for whomsoever He wills.” [Sooratun-Nisaa‘ 4:48, 116]

“Whosoever commits Shirk with Allaah, then Allaah has made Paradise unlawful for Him and His final destination will be the Fire. And there will be no helpers for the transgressors.” [Sooratul-Maa'idah 5:72]

THE SECOND FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE:

When it is said you: What is your Religion? Then say: My Religion is Islaam. And it is submission, obedience and compliance to Allaah the Exalted. And the proof is the statement of Allaah the Exalted,

“Indeed, the Religion with Allaah is al-Islaam.” [Soorah Aali-'Imraan 3:19]

“And whosoever seeks other than Islaam as a Religion, then it will never be accepted from him. And in the Hereafter, he will be from amongst the losers.” [Soorah Aali-'Imraan 3:85]

And Islaam is built upon five pillars: [i]: The first of them is the testimony that there is none worthy of worship besides Allaah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah; [ii]: performance of the Prayer; [iii]: payment of the *zakaat* (obligatory charity); [iv]: fasting in *Ramadaan*; [v]: and *Hajj* (pilgrimage) to the House for one who is capable of that.

As for the proof for the testimony (*shahaadah*), then it is the statement of Allaah the Exalted,

“Allaah testifies that there is none worthy of worship besides Him, and so do the Angels and the people of knowledge – that He is maintaining the creation in justice. There is none worthy of worship besides Him, He is the all-Mighty, the all-Wise.” [Soorah Aali-'Imraan 3:18]

And the proof that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah is the statement of Allaah the Exalted,

“Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but he is the Messenger of Allaah and the last of the Prophets.” [Sooratul-Ahzaab 33:40]

And the proof for the Prayer is the statement of Allaah the Exalted,

“Indeed, the Prayer has been written upon the Believers at specified times.” [Sooratun-Nisaa' 4:103]

And the proof for the *zakaat* is the statement of Allaah the Exalted,

“Take from their wealth a charity by which you purify them and cause them increase and supplicate for them. Indeed, your supplications are a reassurance for them.” [Sooratut-Tawbah 9:103]

And the proof for fasting is the statement of Allaah the Exalted,

“O you who believe! Fasting has been written for you, just as it was written upon those who came before you.” [Sooratul-Baqarah 2:183]

And when it is said to you: The fasting period is for a month? Then say: Yes, and the proof is the statement of Allaah the Exalted,

“The month of Ramadaan in which the Qur'aan was revealed, a guidance for the people and clear proofs from the guidance and a criterion. So whomsoever from amongst you witnesses the month, then let him fast it.” [Sooratul-Baqarah 2:185]

And when it is said to you: The fast is during the night, or during the day? Then say: It is during the day, and the proof is the statement of Allaah the Exalted,

“And eat and drink until the white thread of dawn becomes distinct to you from the black thread. Then complete the fast until the night.” [Sooratul-Baqarah 2:187]

And the proof for *Hajj* is the statement of Allaah the Exalted,

“And due to Allaah from the people is a Hajj (pilgrimage) to the House – for whosoever is able to find a way thereto. And whosoever disbelieves, then Allaah is free from need for the worlds.” [Soorah Aali-'Imraan 3:97]

And when it is said to you: What is *eemaan*? Then say: It is that you believe in Allaah, His Angels, His Books, His Messengers, and the Last Day and that you believe in the *Qadar* (Pre-Decree); the good of it and the evil of it is from Allaah the Exalted. And the proof is the statement of Allaah the Exalted,

“The Messenger has believed in what was revealed to him from his Lord, and so have the Believers. All of them have believed in Allaah and His Angels, and His Books, and His Messengers saying: We make no distinction between any of His Messengers. And they say: We hear and we obey. We seek Your forgiveness, our Lord, and to You is the final destination.” [Sooratul-Baqarah 2:285]

And the proof for the *Qadar* (Pre-Decree) is the statement of Allaah the Exalted,

“Indeed, We created all things with Pre-Decree.” [Sooratul-Qamar 54:49]

And when it is said to you: What is *al-Ihsaan*? Then say: It is that you worship Allaah as though you see Him. So since you do not see Him, then He sees you. And the proof is the statement of Allaah the Exalted,

“Indeed, Allaah is with those who fear Him and those who are doers of good.” [Sooratun-Nahl 16:128]

And when it is said to you: Is the rejecter of the resurrection a disbeliever? Then say: Yes, and the proof is the statement of Allaah the Exalted,

“Those who disbelieve have claimed that they will never be resurrected. Say: Yes, by my Lord, you will surely be resurrected; then you will surely be informed of what you did. And that is easy for Allaah.” [Sooratut-Taghaabun 64:7]

THE THIRD FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE:

When it is said to you: Who is your Prophet? Then say: Muhammad Ibn 'Abdullaah Ibn 'AbdulMuttalib Ibn Haashim. And Haashim was from the Quraysh, and Quraysh is from Kinaanah, and Kinaanah were from the Arabs. And the Arabs were from the offspring of Ismaa'eel (*'alayhis-salaam*). And Ismaa'eel was from Ibraaheem al-Khaleel, and Ibraaheem was from Nooh, and Nooh was from Aadam and Aadam was from dust. And the proof is the statement of Allaah the Exalted,

“Indeed, the example of 'Eesaa to Allaah is like that of Aadam. He created him from dust, then He said to him, “Be,” and he was.” [Soorah Aali'Imraan 3:59]

And when it is said to you: Who was the first of the Messengers? Then say: The first of them was Nooh and the last of them was Muhammad (*sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam*). And the proof is the statement of Allaah the Exalted,

“Indeed, We sent down revelation to you, just as We sent down revelation to Nooh and the Prophets after him.” [Sooratun-Nisaa' 4:163]

And when it is said to you: Were there Messengers in between them? Then say: Yes, and the proof is the statement of Allaah the Exalted,

“Indeed, We have sent to every nation a Messenger saying: Worship Allaah and avoid false deities.” [Sooratun-Nahl 16:36]

And when it is said to you: Is Muhammad a human being? Then say: Yes, and the proof is the statement of Allaah the Exalted,

“Say: I am only a human being like you, to whom it has been revealed that your deity is one deity. So whoever would hope for the meeting with his Lord, then let him work righteous deeds and not associate anyone in the worship of his Lord.” [Sooratul-Kahf 18:110]

And when it is said to you: Is Muhammad a servant? Then say: Yes, and the proof is the statement of Allaah the Exalted,

“Glorified is He who took His servant by night from al-Masjidul-Haraam to al-Masjid al-Aqsaa whose surroundings We have blessed.” [Sooratul-Israa' 17:1]

And when it is said to you: How long did he live? Then say: He reached sixty three years of age [forty years as a Prophet] and twenty three years as a Prophet and a Messenger. He was made a Prophet with *Iqra'* [Sooratul-'Alaq 96:1] and made a Messenger with *al-Muddaththir* [Sooratul-Muddaththir 74:1]. So he went out to the people and said,

“O people! Indeed, I am the Messenger of Allaah to all of you.” [Sooratul-A'raaf 7:158]

So they rejected him, harmed him and chased him away. And they said he was a magician and a liar. So Allaah revealed to him,

“And if you are in doubt about what We have sent down upon Our servant, then produce a soorah the like thereof and call upon your witnesses other than Allaah, if you are truthful.” [Sooratul-Baqarah 2:23]

His city was Makkah and he was born therein. He migrated to alMadeenah and passed away there. His body was buried there and his knowledge remained there. He was a Prophet who was not to be worshipped and a Messenger who was not to be rejected. Rather, he was to be obeyed and followed. May the peace and salutations of Allaah be upon him, his Family and all of his Companions.